



LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

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GARY LAWTON BEGINS RETRIAL AFTER ORIGINAL HUNG JURY;
BLACK ACTIVIST OUT ON BAIL AFTER
23 MONTHS IN JAIL

LIBERATION News Service

(Editor's note: Gary Lawton, the Riverside, California black activist whose trial for the murder of two white policemen ended in a hung jury (9-3 for acquittal) in February of this year, is now on trial for a second time.

The jury, nine whites, two blacks and one Chicano, will hear opening statements beginning the last week in June and the trial is expected to last from 3 to 4 months.

The following is taken from an article provided by the national office of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War in Chicago which first appeared in the Har-
risburg Independent Press.)

RIVERSIDE, California (LNS)--In March, 1971 Riverside's black community became angered over the shooting of one of its residents, William Palmer, by police. The police claimed Palmer was resisting arrest, but community residents told a different story. They maintained that Palmer was shot in the back while walking away from police.

Mounting tension climaxed on April 2 when two white officers, Leonard Christianson and Paul Teel, were killed in what police labelled an "ambush slaying" in the Bordwell Park area of Riverside (which had previously been the center of racial turmoil).

The entire 185 man police force was placed on standby alert. All days-off and leaves were cancelled. Then followed what black residents describe as a "reign of terror." Roadblocks were set up around the community. Blacks were indiscriminately stopped, searched and questioned.

Initial police reports gave descriptions of four suspects--three whites and one black. In later police reports this was changed to four blacks between the ages of 16 and 18. Three were described as about six feet with a thin build.

The local newspaper, The Riverside Press Enterprise, offered a reward of \$2500 for information leading to the capture of the suspects. The mayor went one better by issuing a proclamation requesting \$50,000 to establish a Christianson-Teel Fund for the widows of the two officers. Members of the Dodgers baseball team even came out and played a charity game with the two officers' sons acting as batboys.

But despite the benefits, voluminous pro-police press coverage and stacks of police statements, the search dragged on. Finally police narrowed their investigation down to one individual--Gary Lawton. An ex-marine and self-employed maintenance man, Lawton was regarded as Riverside's "chief black militant." For several years he had been a leader in grass-roots organizations in the black community. The deaths of two policemen seemed to provide the perfect excuse to rid Riverside of a major thorn in its side.

Six detectives went to Lawton's house and asked that he come to headquarters for questioning. After several hours, he was released. Over the next month

GARY LAWTON: ACTIVIST IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

Gary Lawton has been active in the Riverside black community for quite some time. In 1968 he and other black residents began pressuring the city to rename Bordwell Park after Martin Luther King. The Riverside Parks Dept. hedged on the proposal. Right-wing groups like Don't Tread On Me Committee which loudly denounces King as a communist, banded together to oppose the park's renaming. The proposal eventually died.

The summer of 1968 saw Lawton as head of a new group called Black Congress. The Congress urged boycotts of stores with racist hiring practices, protested police harassment and demanded that a run-down housing project in which low-income blacks were forced to live, be improved.

Chukia Lawton, Gary's wife, was involved in a walk-out of black nurses at the city's Parkview Hospital where she worked. The group accused the hospital's administrator of racism and asked that he be fired.

The goals of the Black Congress were not particularly different from those of similar groups in dozens of cities across the country. But for local authorities, they assumed gigantic proportions.

He was called down to the police station several more times. Each time he went. He even volunteered to take a lie detector test and ended up taking two tests after police claimed the first machine broke down.

The tests confirmed "no deception" in his statements.

At the time of the shooting he was at home working on his truck in the front yard. And Lawton matched none of the suspects' physical descriptions. But for the police the explanation wasn't good enough. On May 19 police broke into Lawton's home and arrested him. He was arraigned in 90 minutes; charged with two counts of first degree murder; and held without bail. A tight lid was clapped on news of his arrest. No one, including Chukia Lawton, his wife, was allowed to see him.

This was Lawton's first arrest and most community people who were aware of his activities couldn't believe the police charges.

One of the main prosecution witnesses, Riverside policeman Ronald Lund, claimed to have stopped Lawton near the scene of the crime and, mistaking him for a white man, warned him to stay out of the neighborhood for his own safety. But Lund did not file a written report about seeing Lawton until 50 days after the murders and one day after Lawton was arrested and his picture appeared in the daily paper.

On the witness stand Lund admitted that he had told Riverside detectives that he was not sure whether he had really seen Lawton or if "it is in my mind that I saw the guy."

It was also revealed during the trial that when talking to police about the night in question, he had said, "I want to kill a nigger. I want to kill him worse than anything I ever wanted to do in my

whole life." (Lund is still on the police force and still carries a gun.)

Although Lawton appeared the main target, the police apparently felt obligated to make more arrests just to round things out. In October, 1971, they arrested two more black men--Nehemiah Jackson, a Riverside student, and Larrie Gardner, an unemployed janitor. All three men were charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Jackson and Gardner, who maintained that they did not know each other or Lawton, were tied into the case on the word of a 14 year old white girl, Sally Harris, who was living with Larrie Gardner at the time. She has since admitted that all of her statements to the police were false, given out of fear.

"I thought I was going to lose my mind," she testified. "I had to get out of the room. . . I said the first thing that came to my mind. . . They told me I would be an old lady when I got out of jail. . . they told me that I would go to the gas chamber."

At the time of Lawton's arrest, judges were not required to set bail in cases where the penalty could be death, so for nearly a year he was held in prison without bail. When the California Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was unconstitutional, the basis for denying bail disappeared (Angela Davis was granted bail for the same reason).

In Lawton's case, bail was set at \$150,000. In effect, it was the same as not setting bail. But shortly after it was set, even this impossibly high bail was revoked because the court said that the "proof [of guilt was] evident, or the presumption great."

During the trial, in September of 1972, wives and families of Riverside police officers stacked the courtroom, allowed to enter even before reporters. Lawton's supporters on the other hand were often excluded because of "lack of room."

A black woman was even ordered out of the court for not sitting up in her chair and Rev. Al Dortch, another of Lawton's supporters, was thrown out of court for yawning. Ron Kovic, a disabled, Vietnam veteran who had recently been beaten by police at an anti-war demonstration, prompted Judge Warren E. Slaughter to say, "I know who that vet is and I don't want him falling out of his wheelchair and claiming it was police brutality."

In February the jury returned a verdict of 10-2 for acquittal. Not satisfied with the decision, Judge Slaughter ordered them to reconsider their verdict. After a deadlock of 14 days, the jury voted again--this time 9-3 for acquittal.

In April, 23 months after he was first arrested, Lawton was finally granted reasonable bail and was released. Both Gardner and Jackson were released on bail in early May. The state has also dropped the conspiracy charged on all three men. (Jackson was recently severed from the case and will be tried after Lawton and Gardner, only if they are convicted.)

The trial still continues. Riverside's

officials need to save face. The first trial cost the taxpayers an estimated \$2 million--far too expensive a prosecution, particularly if no one is convicted.

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Lawton, Gardner and Jackson are already deep in debt with legal fees, so any contributions are appreciated. Send them to the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, PO Box 5154, San Bernardino, Calif, 92412.

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[Thanks to the Harrisburg Independent Press and the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee.]

PROTESTORS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST NEWSPAPER FOR SERIES OF ARTICLES ON SOUTH AFRICA

LINCOLN PARK, Michigan (LNS)--Carrying signs reading "Africa Will Win," "Open Your Eyes, Mellus Lies," and "Watts, Africa, Detroit--One Struggle, Many Fronts," 25 people demonstrated in front of the offices of The Mellus, the local Lincoln Park, Michigan weekly newspaper, at the end of May. The protestors (many of them belonging to the staff of Down The River Newspaper, a local community paper) were demonstrating against a recent series of articles The Mellus has run about South Africa.

The series was written by John McGoff, president of the Panax Corporation (which recently took over publication of many newspapers in the Detroit metropolitan area, including The Mellus) and was supposedly intended to tell the "truth" about Africa. "The articles," said a leaflet by the demonstrators, "portray South Africa as an investor's paradise, a dream vacation land, and a small territory of racial and economic harmony."

"The truth about South Africa," the leaflet continued, "and about Southern Africa, is that the white minorities in South Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), and the Portuguese colonies have maintained their vicious racial policies in order to exploit the Black Africa majority and to steal the wealth and resources of the African land, (This is all done with U.S. aid and complicity.)"

"When the articles mentioned the vicious racist policies of the South African government toward black Africans, these policies were portrayed as for the good of the ignorant, culturally deprived, tradition-tied peoples. The denial of such basic rights as the vote, a fair trial by peers, no arrest without warrant, and the freedom to decide where one will live and/or work are never discussed except to justify these policies because the black Africans are not 'ready for independence.'"

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(Thanks to Down The River for this article.)

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY? REMEMBER, YOU ARE OUR BEST CONTACT IN YOUR AREA. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT YOU THINK OTHERS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN, TAKE SOME PICTURES, WRITE A STORY AND SEND IT IN.

THE OIL COMPANIES VS. THE GAS STATION DEALERS:
"GRADUALLY YOU REALIZE YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER WORKER
FOR THE OIL COMPANY"

(Editor's note: Despite a massive media campaign by the big oil companies saying that the U.S. is in an energy crisis brought on by the government's "stringent" environmental regulations and new demands by the third world oil-producing countries, many people are beginning to doubt it. Even a number of state District Attorneys recently testified at a Senate Anti-Trust Subcommittee hearing in Washington, saying they thought the sudden "shortage" of gasoline in some states came more from big oil companies' collusion than a real lack of natural resources. "Big oil is bigger than the U.S. government," said Connecticut Attorney General Robert K. Killian.

The public is being subjected to "clandestine regulation by a few oil companies. . . not accountable to the people," said Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley of Michigan.

For all the oil companies' whining, they're not the ones being hurt by the supposed shortage. By holding back large amounts of gasoline while the demand remains high, they are able to raise their prices. Rather it is the gas station owner and the public who suffer from the high prices.

The following article, which first appeared in the Fall River-New Bedford, Massachusetts community paper, For the People, explains the plight of the small gas station owner.)

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (LNS)--"It says above my door, 'Independent Dealer and Owner', but I'm a nobody--just a number. When I call up to Rhode Island to order gas and I tell them I'm Joe Smith, they ask me what's my number."

Joe leases his gas station from one of the major oil companies. Joe Smith isn't his real name of course. He is afraid that if we use his real name here, the company will harass him and might eventually drive him out of business. He has seen it happen time and again. They put the pressure on until you either buckle under or move out.

Either way, the oil companies win. They can always find some guy willing to put up another six or seven grand, take over, and try his luck.

The odds are stacked against you. Ask one of the dealers next time you go into a gas station. Or check out how big a turnover of "owners" there has been at some of your local stations.

Everyone who drives a car is a victim of the giant oil companies. Prices keep bounding upward and there is talk of motorists being stranded. All of this is supposed to be due to a gas shortage that many people think the oil companies are causing themselves. The gas companies are doing this because they want to force the government to allow them to drill off the Northwest coast. They also want to build new refineries without the required environmental protections.

Shell, Mobil, Exxon, and the rest don't care any more for the dealers than they do for the public. They have a real system worked out. As one dealer said: "It's my sweat and blood but the companies don't do for you what they should. The dealers take

the high risk and get a low profit."

Another dealer had worked for seventeen years as a mechanic, finally pulled together six grand and signed up with Esso. Now, after three years he is taking home only \$140 a week. "It looked good on paper," he explained.

He went on: "Before they sign you on the company representative says it's a cinch--and then when you start having trouble, they say it's all your own fault. They don't even take into account new stations opening on a highway passing your place by"

The oil companies are in the real estate business too. The dealers pay the company a monthly rental fee for the station--usually with a one-year lease. If the dealers do well (and the oil companies know because they buy their supplies from them), then their rent will go up!

The lease agreement also states that the dealer must pay the company a certain minimum amount for the gasoline--usually about \$600 a month--no matter how little gas the station sells.

And then there are those extra monthly rentals such as for the oil racks and the large revolving sign. One local station is paying \$40 a month just on his sign. A large sign also means a large electricity bill.

This dealer said that recently the company sales representative complained to him that there were not enough lights on at night. The representative wanted every light inside and out left on. This way the Company gets another giant billboard, but it's the dealer who foots the bill.

In addition to all of these expenses, the dealers are often required to buy their supplies from the oil companies, even if they could get them cheaper from other sources. This includes oil as well as gas and accessories such as fan belts, batteries, tires, spark plugs and filters.

Then there are the promotions--the free glasses and steak knives. Free to the customers but the dealers have to buy them from the oil companies.

That's not to say the company actually forces the dealer to go along with promotions. Joe says that if you don't, the company doesn't get mad, it gets even.

How does the company get even? Joe told of the time they delayed for three days delivery of his gas. They told him the truck broke down. And last year three times in a row the company switched his order and brought him regular gas when he wanted premium. Each time, they claimed he must have made the error when phoning in the order.

The oil companies can also get even by being bad landlords--dragging their feet in maintaining the shop. If a dealer has a broken lift they can hold off for months before repairing it. They can also delay sending him supplies, maps, or even credit card forms. Joe says it's a matter of constant aggravation. You can't live with it. They drive you out.

So what are the chances of succeeding in the service station business? Not good. Joe attended a management training class with 15 other dealers. Three years later, only two of them are still in business.

One dealer fails and another takes over. How can the oil companies get away with this time after time?

Joe explains that an ice cream or fried chicken franchise often requires a \$15,000 or \$20,000 investment. A \$6,000 service station franchise is more within the reach of the average working class person. How many people are there who have worked all their lives in shops or fixing up cars for other people who have always dreamed of working for themselves?

Joe summed it up by saying: "Often you can make it--but what you have to give of yourself, is it worth it? You think you are an independent dealer, but gradually you come to realize that really you are just another worker for the oil company. The only difference is that they don't guarantee you a salary, there is no security, and they don't give you any benefits."

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ASBESTOS FOUND IN DULUTH DRINKING WATER; CANCER AGENT PART OF RESERVE MINING'S POLLUTION OF LAKE SUPERIOR

LIBERATION News Service

DULUTH, Minn. (LNS)--Residents of Duluth and surrounding Minnesota communities have been urged to find alternative sources of drinking water for their children in the wake of an announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency that "high concentrations" of potentially dangerous asbestos fibers have been found in Lake Superior, the area's water supply.

The asbestos fibers are part of the Reserve Mining Co.'s discharge of waste into Lake Superior --67,000 tons daily for the past 15 years. The Reserve plant, located in Silver Bay, Minnesota (about 65 miles north of Duluth) extracts iron ore pellets from taconite rock mined along the Minnesota Iron Range.

Owned 50-50 by Republic Steel and the Armco Steel Corp., Reserve calls the charges unfounded and says there is no indication that the waste presents any hazard to the drinking water.

However, there are many who disagree. Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, an expert in environmentally-caused cancer at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, has shown over the last two decades that the inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause chronic lung disease called asbestosis and cancer of the lungs, stomach and colon.

Dr. Selikoff identified the asbestos fibers in the Duluth water as being the same type (amosite) that has been implicated in half the deaths among workers in a Paterson, New Jersey asbestos plant. These workers experienced three times the expected death rate from cancer of the gastro-intestinal tract.

"It can be assumed that anyone who inhales asbestos fibers also ingests them, but there have been no pure studies of the effects of ingestion in humans," said Dr. Selikoff.

Dr. Lawrence Plumlee, a physician on the staff of the Environmental Protection Agency, said that limited studies in animals have indicated that when asbestos is placed in the stomach, it rapidly enters the blood stream and is widely distributed to tissues throughout the body.

At the request of the Environmental Protection Agency, Dr. Selikoff and another environmental cancer expert, Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, will carry out a crash testing program in the next few weeks to determine the average accumulation of asbestos fibers in the tissues of residents in the Duluth area.

Among asbestos workers, the asbestos-caused cancers generally did not show up for 20-30 years. "If the residents of Duluth have similar accumulations of asbestos as do the asbestos workers," said Dr. Selikoff, "we can pretty well predict what's going to happen 5 or 10 years from now."

It's no news to the residents of Duluth that Reserve's wastes dumped into their water supply are potentially hazardous. Environmental groups like the Save Lake Superior Association and the Northern Environmental Council, as well as the state and federal government, have been involved in a seemingly endless legal battle for several years. The recent discovery of the asbestos fibers only adds fuel to the fire.

"It's been an uphill road to get any kind of action," said a spokesman for the Northern Environmental Council. "Reserve maintains that the waste is not harmful to the biotic community of the lake. But really they're fighting pollution control. The company doesn't want to go to the expense; to the trouble, to control their pollution."

Reserve is the only major industry dumping anything into Lake Superior, and is also the largest company in northeastern Minnesota, employing 3,000 people. "Silver Bay is a company town," explained the Northern Environmental Council spokesman.

The company is scheduled to come to trial in August before the Duluth Federal District Court to answer the charges that it is dangerously polluting. "A lot of people are pretty upset; seriously so," said the spokesman. "The city has already initiated a program to find bottled water for children."

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[Thanks to the Northern Environmental Council for this information.]

"I was 100% for the war when I went over... but after I saw the destruction and the people being killed, I changed my mind."

--Sgt. John Young, released POW and recently accused (with seven other enlisted men) of "aiding and abetting the enemy" among other crimes.

**STRIKE BY BLACK WOMEN AT VIRGINIA
OYSTER PROCESSING PLANT ENTERS FOURTH MONTH
BOYCOTT CAMPBELL'S OYSTER AND CLAM SOUPS**

NORFOLK, Va. (LNS)--"You just get tired of being a slave after so long. We're not going to be pushed around by management anymore." That's the way one of the 100 (mostly black women) striking workers summed up the feelings that led to the walkout at the J.H. Miles Oyster Processing Plant here. The strike began last March 8. The Miles plant processes both oysters and clams, which are sold mainly to the Campbells Soup Company to make its canned oyster stew and clam chowder.

Miles pays its workers \$2.15 an hour. "There's no overtime pay at all," explained one worker. "We come in at 6:45 or 7 am and work until they decide to let us go home, and we never know when that is until they tell us. That makes it especially hard on women, which is 95 percent of the workers, because we have responsibilities at home." There is no pension or retirement plan either.

The strikers have asked for a two-year contract calling for a 45 cent an hour increase over that period, an extra 10 cents an hour for working nights, an additional holiday and more vacation allowance.

The company has offered only a ten cent an hour raise and has refused to negotiate on improved working conditions, any kind of overtime pay, and the workers' demand for an end to racist harassment by white foremen and bosses. In fact, Miles is trying to cut back on what benefits the workers already have--visitation rights for union officials and dues checkoff (when workers win a union shop the company agrees to deduct dues from workers' checks for the union.)

"We have to work in ice-cold water," said one woman striker. "Some of the women have to stand in it all day. Plus there is no air conditioning or sufficient heat, so that place is cold in the winter and hot in the summer."

"The meat gets so rotten it makes you sick," said another woman. "I used to buy Campbell's clam chowder for my family, but since working at Miles I'd be afraid to serve it to them."

"They claim that the work is seasonal to get out of overtime pay," said another, "but they work us from sunrise to sunset all year, even in the middle of the summer when the maggots are just running out of these clams. They want to triple production without increasing the work force, by working us longer hours and speeding up the work."

"The foreman and the management are prejudiced against blacks. White women used to come in there and move right up to the best jobs, until we started to change that with the union."

"But they still don't like to see whites and blacks talking. The foremen play favorites and only like blacks that act the way they want blacks to act."

One worker was told to stand at attention when speaking to her foreman. She said, "I'm grown and 40 years old. I deserve some respect. He wrote me up for insubordination, and I was suspended for two days. He

He thinks he's still in the Navy.

"Another woman was so harassed by her foreman that she suffered a nervous breakdown. And while she was in the hospital the company sent her a note discharging her for being absent."

The company has attempted to break the strike with a court injunction, private detectives, a professional anti-union consulting firm and the Norfolk police.

The Center for United Labor Action in Norfolk is organizing a support campaign for the strikers and has called for a nationwide boycott of Campbells soups that contain oysters or clams. For more information contact the Center for United Labor Action, PO Box 7002, Norfolk, Virginia, 23509.

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(Thanks to the Southern Patriot and the Great Speckled Bird for the information in this story.)

(see graphics)

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"ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN OF THE CENTURY."

CALIF. RICHIES STAND FAST BEHIND NIXON

NEWPORT BEACH, Cal. (LNS) -- Though the Watergate conspiracy scandal has caused Nixon's popularity to drop from its peak of 65% in January to about 43% in mid-June, according to a Harris poll, there is at least one area of the country where his popularity remains as solid as ever. Among the super rich members of the Lincoln Club in Orange County, south of Los Angeles, affection for Nixon remains as ardent as ever.

"He's one of the greatest men of the century and no evidence whatever has been produced to diminish that fact," said Robert F. Beaver, who heads a large construction company in this center of wealthy Republican conservatism. Beaver is the treasurer of the Lincoln Club, to which 126 men are chosen for their social acceptability and financial affluence.

Members of the Lincoln Club, who proudly boast that Nixon could never have become president without their help, have contributed millions of dollars to help to promote Nixon's political efforts. Some members began pumping money into Nixon's career as far back as 1946 when he first ran for Congress.

Interviews with dozens of the club's members by the New York Times produced strong criticism of the Ervin Committee investigations into Watergate. One termed the hearings an attempt to "make a mountain out of a molehill" and a multimillionaire personal friend of the president called them "childish and absurd, a bunch of kids making mud pies."

Club members also tend to be easy on one of the club's board of directors, Herbert Kalmbach, formerly Nixon's personal attorney who has admitted handling large amounts of money for covert operations. Paul A. Palmer, a lawyer and the club's secretary issued a statement calling Kalmbach (CONTINUED ON INSIDE OF FRONT COVER--)

(Note to editors: See graphics section for photo to go with this story.)

PAT CHENOWETH ACQUITTED OF SABOTAGE OF NAVY CARRIER; USS RANGER CASE ONLY ONE OF MANY

(Editor's note: The following article was written by Larry Hendel and Sheila Western for Pacific News Service. Additional information about Pat Chenoweth's acquittal was added by LNS.)

ALAMEDA, Calif.(PNS/LNS)--Navy fireman Patrick Chenoweth, accused of causing almost a million dollars in damage to the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ranger (delaying its departure for Vietnam by three and a half months), was acquitted June 12. It was the first time since World War II that a U.S. serviceman had been charged with committing sabotage in time of war.

The court martial board of three enlisted men and two officers voted for acquittal after three hours of deliberation because of the lack of evidence against the 21-year old Chenoweth. Throughout the six day trial the defense maintained that many people on the carrier had access to the area where the damage occurred.

Had he been convicted, Chenoweth would have faced a possible 30 year prison sentence. His civilian lawyer, Eric A. Seitz, expressed pleasure with the verdict but said, "I am angry and resentful about Pat's being confined ten and a half months without having committed a crime."

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The crime Pat Chenoweth was accused of is by no means a unique one. In fact, the destruction of the Ranger's reduction gears (similar to a car's transmission) by two 12-inch bolts is only the tip of the iceberg. Sabotage is not new to the U.S. Navy, but it is currently enjoying a revival.

Another Navy enlisted man is now in the brig at Treasure Island, California, charged with setting fires in the engine room of the U.S.S. Coral Sea last fall. On that same cruise, the drinking water was "accidentally" contaminated before the ship made it from California to Hawaii, and there were frequent and "unexplained" difficulties with its plane-launching catapults.

In the words of a crewman from the U.S.S. Oriskany, another Seventh Fleet carrier, sabotage "happens every day all day." He is speaking from experience, for the Oriskany returned from its last tour of duty recently with one propeller inoperative. Mercury had been smeared onto the propeller shaft, and the combination of salt water with the chemical froze the shaft in place. The same thing had happened on the previous cruise.

Navy sabotage takes many forms besides simply disabling machinery. It can involve great subtlety. Dissident sailors selectively damage or steal the vital electronic gear aboard fighter-bombers, making their combat missions impossible. Foreign Object Damage, known as "fodding," is also a problem. Few planes take off from carriers without careful inspection of the engine air intakes; "fodding" a jet engine will usually tear it to pieces, and sometimes cause a plane to explode during take-off.

But apparently saboteurs are reluctant to place the pilot's life in jeopardy, and less drastic forms of sabotage are mainly responsible for the low "ready" rate among U.S. service aircraft. Out of a deployment of 1,000 planes, only two to three hundred are flightworthy at a time.

A radio repairman from a carrier confided that he has actually destroyed more equipment than he has fixed while in the Navy. And an officer and fellow-shipmate who worked in the "tower" during take-offs and landings said he used to deliberately burn out the weather radars by spinning the control dials too fast, requiring a two or three day repair job.

Perhaps the most sensational form of sabotage is arson. Although ships are made of metal, their fittings, wiring, and of course, offices and living quarters, all contain material that burns well--particularly at sea, where getting adequate fire-fighting equipment into place is often impossible.

A recent fire on the U.S.S. Forrestal was estimated to have caused almost eight million dollars in damage before being controlled. Convicted of causing that fire, Jeffery Allison is now serving a five-year sentence in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Allison's case, more than Chenoweth's, demonstrates the Navy's stance on sabotage, showing how serious it is in trying to stem the tide of what now approaches an epidemic. Allison was arrested on the ship after the fire and told that there was an eyewitness to "his" crime. The eyewitness, it turned out, was an investigator from the special Navy Investigative Service, who, according to reliable sources on the ship, "interrogated" Allison with lit matches, and kept him awake for three days straight until a confession was extracted.

During the course of the "interrogation," Allison was falsely told that several of his friends and bunkmates had accused him, and that he did not stand a chance if he pleaded innocent. In the end, he "confessed" to the crime, and got a five-year sentence on charges that could have imprisoned him for up to 105 years.

The Navy has tried several methods for dealing with sabotage. Beyond making examples out of a handful of "offenders" like Allison and Chenoweth, it promulgated Naval Operations Instruction 231. Under this Instruction, between four and five thousand "undesirables"--men thought to be present or potential troublemakers--have been discharged from the Navy. But it does not seem to be working.

Ironically, the number of cases of sabotage aboard the Ranger increased dramatically after Chenoweth's arrest. Engine room equipment was repeatedly put out of commission, fire hoses were cut, and the fresh water supply was completely contaminated on two occasions. There were at least three fires on the ship in the months after the reduction gears were ruined, and 20 "bomb scare" phone calls were made from phones on board.

The number of AWOL sailors rose to the point where approximately 10% of the crew missed the Ranger's sailing in November.

All indications for the future suggest that the Navy will have to do better than NOI 231.

The U.S. is going to rely more and more on aircraft carriers to spread its influence. Two more giant nuclear-powered carriers are scheduled to be built in the next three years. And more and more crewmen will echo the views expressed by an enlisted man from the Midway:

"We are always exhausted. The ship is alive 24 hours a day. There's very little time to ourselves. It is crowded, there's little or no privacy. Most of the time you're homesick, full of anxiety to be back in the States."

Aircraft carriers have traditionally been criticized as being too vulnerable. But the growing attack from within is an unexpected complication that will have to be faced. In the words of a sailor from the Coral Sea, "sabotage will become as American as apple pie."

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(See graphics section in this packet for photo.)

WATERGATE CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM C. ARNHOLT SMITH FINDS HIS EMPIRE CRUMBLING

LIBERATION News Service

SAN DIEGO (LNS) -- The Ervin Committee and the Watergate grand jury investigations have implicated almost every important person that Richard Nixon brought into the White House with him. And now the shadow of Watergate is beginning to fall on those men behind the government who have kept the Nixon machinery well oiled -- financially that is -- in return for a voice in the White House.

First to fall was New Jersey financier Robert Vesco, indicted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) along with former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans for fraud and conspiracy involving illegal business deals. Vesco, 38, who rose from a \$10,000 a year job in 1960 to multi-millionaire status in 1973, is waiting out the storm in Costa Rica while Mitchell and Stans prepare for a fall trial in New York.

The most recent Nixon crony currently on the ropes is San Diego millionaire C. Arnholt Smith. Smith, chummy enough with Nixon to have watched the 1968 election returns with him, is currently facing fraud suits by the SEC and is also being investigated by the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The 74 year old Smith has a financial empire which includes U.S. National Bank, one of California's largest, the San Diego Padres baseball team, and the Westgate-California Corp., a multi-million dollar conglomerate with interests that ranged from hotels, real estate and insurance to tuna fishing fleets, canneries and Air California, a commuter airline. He has so dominated his hometown that a local newspaper dubbed him "Mr. San Diego of the Century."

The first sign of Smith's troubles came in mid-May when the SEC suspended trading in shares of Westgate-California, of which Smith is chairman.

Then, in early June, the SEC filed suit in

San Diego federal court charging that Smith and several other top Westgate executives had systematically looted the conglomerate out of some \$100 million in assets. And in a separate action, the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency moved against the U.S. National Bank (California's tenth largest with assets of over \$1 billion) on charges that the bank had lent more than the legally permissible 10% of its capital to Smith's various enterprises. Only a week before, Smith had resigned as the bank's chairman.

As if that doesn't give Smith enough to deal with, an IRS task force investigating his books, for the last two years recently turned over the results of the audit to the tax agency's intelligence division for investigation for suspected criminal fraud.

To add insult to injury, Smith is also the target of a \$300 million damage suit filed by some Westgate shareholders.

Sources in San Diego report that criminal charges will be brought against Smith by the IRS during the latter part of 1973, including multiple counts of income tax evasion. Any indictments, though, will not come until after October when, according to Washington sources, Harry Steward, U.S. Attorney for San Diego, will leave his post due to "failing health." (The same sources in Washington report that Steward's "poor health" was a way for the new Attorney General, Elliot Richardson, to get rid of a potentially embarrassing link up to the White House. Steward, a long time Smith crony, is a Nixon appointee.)

The IRS is also looking into the possibility that Smith-controlled firms made contributions to Nixon's 1972 campaign in violation of federal laws that prohibit corporate political gifts.

As early as October 1971, San Diego's underground paper, The Door, reported that Smith had pledged \$3 million to the Nixon re-election campaign in exchange for the Republican Party's National Convention being held in San Diego. As owner of a monopoly taxi interest and an ultra plush hotel, Smith stood to do pretty well for himself during convention week.

At the same time, The Door reported that \$400,000 of the \$1.5 million that San Diego offered the Republicans in exchange for the convention came from the Sheridan Hotel chain under the guise of a contribution from San Diego Republican Congressman Bob Wilson. The Sheridan chain is a subsidiary of ITT and its \$400,000 pledge was disguised for good reason, as it was later linked to a favorable anti-trust ruling by the Justice Department involving ITT.

Because of the ITT scandal, as well as the fact that the people of San Diego never really wanted the convention anyway, and the extensive organizing being done by radicals to prepare for Nixon, the convention was moved to Miami.

Although investigators have yet to directly link Smith money to the Committee to Re-elect the President Watergate activities, his financial involvement in past Nixon campaigns leaves room for suspicion.

According to David Stutz, an ex IRS agent who now works for the San Diego D.A.'s office, a grand jury heard testimony in 1970 in which a San Diego cab company owner told of making illegal contributions to Nixon's 1968 campaign.

The cab owner, Charles Pratt, said that Smith had asked him to buy two tickets to a \$1000 a plate Nixon campaign dinner. When Pratt replied that he did not have the money, Smith allegedly told him that it could "come out of the business." Pratt then used company funds to buy the tickets through a bill from Smith's ad agency for \$2,068 for a non-existent "wage and hour survey." The \$68 was tacked on to make things look a little less suspicious.

That way, says Stutz, "Nixon got the contribution, and Pratt could take it off his income tax."

"It appeared that there were tens of thousands of dollars in contributions that were handled in the same manner," explained Stutz, "and most of them were from companies owned by Smith." But "one look (at Smith's books) was all we got before we were stopped."

Stutz maintains that investigators were called off by San Diego's U.S. Attorney Harry Steward. Stutz also says that former Presidential Assistant John Caulfield, a self-confessed figure in the Watergate coverup, asked him three times to meet secretly to discuss the status of the investigation of Smith. Stutz explained that Steward's action to squelch the investigation occurred after the meetings with Caulfield.

Given Smith's run of bad luck recently, speculation is abounding that his newest real estate acquisition may be somewhere in the vicinity of Robert Vesco's current hangout.

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(Thanks to Doug Porter and Larry Remer at the San Diego Door for some of the information in this story.)

FILMS FROM CHINA AVAILABLE

NEW YORK (LNS)--The U.S.-China Friendship Association of the San Francisco Bay Area now has films available from China for use by schools, community groups, and other organizations.

"The Red Detachment of Women," "Chinese Delegation Visits Hanoi," "Prince Sihanouk Visits South China," and "Away With All Pests" (Dr. Joshua Horn's lecture and slide show on people's medical teams and para-medics in the rural areas) rent for \$8.00 a piece plus shipping.

Write to the U.S.-China Friendship Association, 50 Oak Street, Room 502, San Francisco, Calif. 94102 or call (415) 863-0537 for more information.

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"The fliers, they don't experience [the war]. They can't know. They're up there and they don't hear anything. All they see is a little flash. They don't see the destruction or hear the screams."

--Sgt. John Young, one of eight POWs (all enlisted men) charged by their officers with "aiding and abetting the enemy."

METHODONE MORE DANGEROUS TO BABIES THAN HEROIN STUDY FINDS

NEW YORK (LNS)--A recent study shows that it is even more dangerous for their babies if pregnant mothers are on methodone than if they are on heroin.

The study, conducted by New York pediatrician Carl Zelson, involved 46 babies born to methadone-addicted mothers and 45 babies born to heroin-addicted mothers. Twenty of the methodone babies required withdrawal treatment while six of the heroin babies did. The methadone babies also needed longer periods of treatment for withdrawal.

Many of the methadone babies were born underweight and both sets of babies showed abnormal sleep patterns.

-30-

[Thanks to Muhammad Speaks for this short]

THE DICTATORS

A odor has remained among the sugar cane:
a mixture of blood and body, a penetrating
petal that brings nausea.
Between the coconut palms the graves are full
of ruined bones, of speechless death-rattles.
A delicate underling converses
with glasses, braid collars, and cords of gold.
The tiny palace gleams like a watch
and the rapid laughs with gloves on
cross the corridors at times
and join the dead voices
and the blue mouths freshly buried.
The weeping is hidden like a water-plant
whose seeds fall constantly on the earth
and without light make the great blind leaves grow.
Hatred has grown scale upon scale,
blow on blow, in the ghastly water of the swamp,
with a snout full of ooze and silence.

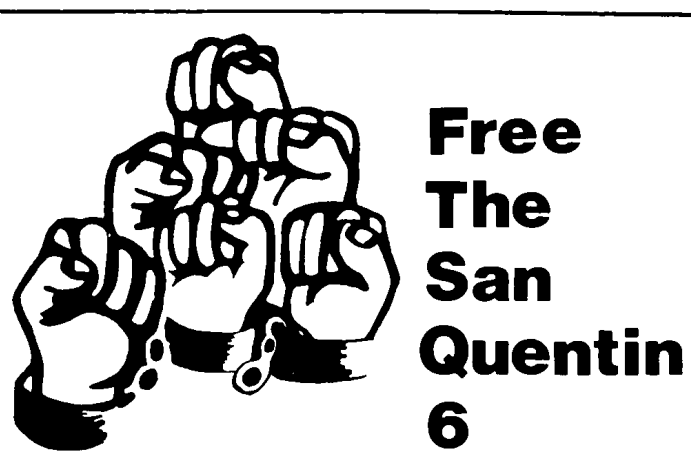
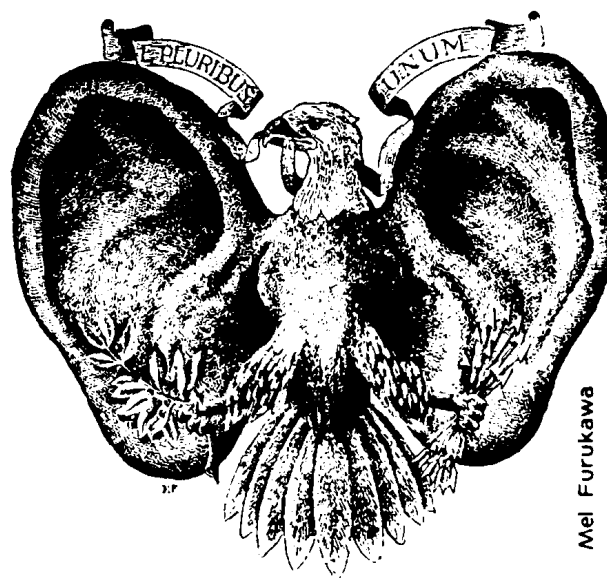
--Pablo Neruda

(translated by Robert Bly)

"The federal government has once again succeeded in taking something valuable from the Indians.

The big people from Washington came with their big smiles and their friendly ways of conveying with the Indians. They talked with their forked tongues to the Tribal Council getting a ninety year lease for development. Development for what or whom? It is not development for the Indian people for sure. How can they develop into something when their land is being taken from them. If they wanted the Indian people to develop, why don't they build schools, homes, and training centers? The land is now in the hands of the destroyers of life. They will turn the land upside down and build residential properties for their people. They will bring pollution to our water and our air. They will use our water which we already have little of. . . . In ninety nine years, where will the little people live or what will they own they can say is their own?"

--written by a young Indian whose tribe has signed a lease with a development company



TOP RIGHT: See story on page 5.

Women who work in a oyster and clam processing plant in Norfolk, Virginia are on strike. They are asking for a boycott of Campbell soups with oysters and clams.

TOP LEFT: Gary Lawton, a Riverside, Calif. black activist who is being tried a second time for murder of a white policeman. His first trial ended in a hung jury (9 to 3 for acquittal).

SEE STORY PAGE 1.

CREDIT: WINIER SOLDIER/LNS

Second from right top: Pat Chenoweth, a Navy fireman aboard the carrier, U.S.S. Ranger, who was recently acquitted of charges of sabotage.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 6.

Third from right top: Credit: THE GUARDIAN.

BOTTOM LEFT: C. Arnholt Smith, well-known southern California millionaire financier and long-time friend of Nixon, and Nixon together at the 1960 G.O.P. Convention.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 7.